

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B26D5/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B26D G05B IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) **EPO-Internal** C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages US 2003/126963 A1 (DAVIS DENNY E ET AL) 1-40. Υ 42-44 10 July 2003 (2003-07-10) page 2, paragraph 17 - paragraph 18 1-40. WO 02/39199 A (HOFMANN HORST; SIEMENS AG Y 42-44 (DE)) 16 May 2002 (2002-05-16) page 4, line 10 - line 20 page 6, line 25 - line 35 page 9, line 10 - line 35 3,5,7 EP 1 162 029 A (PROMETEC GMBH) Y 12 December 2001 (2001-12-12) paragraph '0019! US 2003/015076 A1 (TANAKA SHIGERU ET AL) 1 X 23 January 2003 (2003-01-23) paragraph '0052! - paragraph '0065! Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X *T*-later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 04/03/2005 24 February 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Vaglienti, G

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